

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, SAN DIEGO REGION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND CEQA SCOPING MEETING
FOR SWITZER CREEK, DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE, AND
B STREET/BROADWAY PIERS TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS
FOR TOXICITY AND DEGRADED BENTHIC COMMUNITY**

**April 21, 2003 1:30 p.m.
Regional Board Office Board Room
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego California 92123-4340**

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND CEQA SCOPING
MEETING**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) will hold a combined public workshop and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting on the Switzer Creek, Downtown Anchorage, and B Street/Broadway Piers Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for toxicity and benthic community degradation.

Date: Monday April 21, 2003

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Regional Board Office – Board Room
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

Two or more Regional Board members may attend this meeting. However, no voting will occur.

Purpose of the Public Workshop: To introduce the Switzer Creek, Downtown Anchorage, and B Street/Broadway Piers TMDLs that will begin in May 2003, answer questions and receive input from the public on these TMDLs for toxicity and degraded benthic community. Public participation is an important part of the TMDL process and is encouraged.

Purpose of the CEQA Scoping Meeting: To receive comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the “functionally equivalent” documents prepared pursuant to CEQA Section 21080.5 of the California Public Resources Code.

BACKGROUND

The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) requires States to develop a list of waterbodies which do not, or are not expected to, meet water quality standards after implementing technology based controls. CWA Section 303(d) requires States to identify these impaired waters and develop TMDLs for such waters. The purpose of a TMDL is to restore the waterbody’s beneficial uses and attain water quality objectives.

Sediments in San Diego Bay in the vicinity of Downtown Anchorage, B Street/Broadway Piers, and near the mouth of Switzer Creek are contaminated with anthropogenic chemicals. In addition, these sites contain degraded benthic macroinvertebrate communities, and samples from these areas have been demonstrated to be toxic to various marine invertebrate species in laboratory toxicity tests. As a consequence, these sites have been identified as areas of impaired water quality. In response to this contamination, the Regional Board has initiated efforts to develop TMDLs for

these sites in order to reduce ongoing loadings of contaminants of concern.

These efforts require similar information in order to initiate action: delineation of the spatial extent and magnitude of impairment, information on temporal variability of contamination and bioeffects, causes of impacts, and descriptions of the sources of contaminants. Similar information is needed for remediation planning, so that the affected area can be defined, and effective clean-up standards established. The primary objective of these actions is elimination of the impairment of benthic animal communities and cleanup of the contaminated marine sediment. In addition, the Regional Board has determined that these efforts should also minimize human health and wildlife impacts resulting from the accumulation and possible biomagnification of contaminants in the food web.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

To obtain the most current information on the Switzer Creek, Downtown Anchorage, or B Street/Broadway Piers TMDLs for toxicity and degraded benthic community, contact us by:

U.S. mail: Regional Water Quality Control Board, 9174 Sky Park Court Suite 100, San Diego, California 92123-4340.

Email: SDBAY_TMDLS@rb9.swrcb.ca.gov

Telephone: Mr. Brennan Ott (858) 268-5362

Website: www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9

The documents can also be reviewed by appointment at the Regional Board office at the above address.

INFORMATION

Parking is available at the workshop location. A map with directions to the workshop may be obtained from the Regional Board’s website or by contacting Ms. Lori Costa at the phone number below.

The workshop room facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Lori Costa at (858) 467-2357 at least 5 working days prior to April 21, 2003. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

John H. Robertus
EXECUTIVE OFFICER